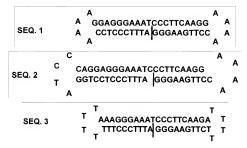
## IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, in this application.

- 1. (original) A staple oligonucleotide which is a single-stranded oligonucleotide comprising a 5'-end sequence, an intermediate sequence and a 3'-end sequence, the 5'-end sequence having a reverse complementarity with the intermediate sequence, the 3'-end sequence having a reverse complementarity with the intermediate sequence and the intermediate sequence having loops at both ends, the loops each comprising three to ten nucleotides and not forming a complementary bond intermolecularly.
- (original) The staple oligonucleotide according to claim 1, wherein the single-stranded oligonucleotide comprises 30 to 70 nucleotides in length.
- (previously presented) The staple oligonucleotide according to claim 1, wherein the single-stranded oligonucleotide comprises 34 to 64 nucleotides in length.
- 4. (previously presented) The staple oligonucleotide according to claim 1, wherein the single-stranded oligonucleotide comprises 38 to 58 nucleotides in length.
- 5. (previously presented) The staple oligonucleotide according to claim 1, wherein the single-stranded oligonucleotide comprises 42 to 54 nucleotides in length.
- 6. (previously presented) The staple oligonucleotide according to claim 1, wherein the loops each comprise 4 to 6 nucleotides in length.
- 7. (previously presented) The staple oligonucleotide according to claim 1, wherein the single-stranded oligonucleotide comprises 42 to 54 nucleotides in length, and the loops each comprise 4 to 6 nucleotides in length.
- 8. (previously presented) The staple oligonucleotide according to claim 1, wherein the oligonucleotide is a DNA or a DNA derivative.

- (previously presented) The staple oligonucleotide according to claim 1, whose phosphate groups are not phosphorothioated.
- 10. (previously presented) The staple oligonucleotide according to claim 1, which is one selected from the group consisting of oligodeoxynucleotides of Sequence No. 1 to 3 of Sequence Listing, or an oligodeoxynucleotide represented by the following structural formula:



wherein the vertical lines mean a non-binding site (5' end and 3' end).

- 11. (previously presented) A medicament comprising the staple oligonucleotide according to claim 1.
- 12. (original) The medicament according to claim 11, which is a transcription factor inhibitor, an antisense or an siRNA.
- 13. (original) The medicament according to claim 12, wherein the transcription factor inhibitor is an antagonistic inhibitor.

- 14. (previously presented) The medicament according to claim 12, wherein the transcription factor is one selected from the group consisting of NF-kB, STAT-1, STAT-2, STAT-3. STAT-4. STAT-5. STAT-6. GATA-3. AP-1. E2F. Ets and CRE.
- 15. (previously presented) The medicament according to claim 12, which is an agent for preventing, treating or improving inflammation, an allergic disease, an autoimmune disease, a central disease, reperfusion injury in a ischaemic disease, worsened prognosis after organ transplantation or organ surgery, or restenosis after percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA).
- 16. (previously presented) The medicament according to claim 15, wherein the inflammation is arthritis, dermatitis, nephritis, hepatitis, renal failure, cystitis, prostatitis, urethritis, ulcerative colitis or Crohn disease.
- 17. (original) The medicament according to claim 16, wherein the arthritis is chronic rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis.
- 18. (original) The medicament according to claim 16, wherein the dermatitis is atopic dermatitis, contact dermatitis, psoriasis, cutaneous ulcer or decubitus.

## Claim 19 (canceled)

20. (previously presented) A method for preventing, treating or improving a disease against which a transcription factor inhibitor, an antisense or an siRNA is efficacious, the method comprises the step of administering, to a patient, a pharmacologically effective amount of the staple oligonucleotide according to claim 1.